

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's 2014 Legislative Accomplishments: Public Safety

"The most sacred duty of any government is to promote the safety of our people. In 2014, we've taken even more steps to keep more Marylanders safe across our State."

– Governor Martin O'Malley

During the 2014 legislative session, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown prioritized the safety of more Marylanders, especially women and children. Their efforts during the session aligned with the [Administration's strategic goals](#), including [reducing violent crime by 20% by the end of 2018](#) and [reducing violent crimes against women and children by 25% by the end of 2018](#).

Protected Domestic Violence Victims and Children

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown enhanced protections for victims of domestic violence. They increased penalties for committing an act of domestic violence in front of a child; made it easier to get a protective order by changing the standard of proof; and added second-degree assault to crimes for which a person can obtain a final protective order.

Improved Prison Integrity and Security

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown improved safety and security in the State's correctional facilities by combatting the introduction of contraband, enhancing investigatory capacity, and rooting out corruption.

Protected More Drivers, Passengers and People on Maryland's Roads with "Jake's Law"

Governor O'Malley signed "Jake's Law," legislation honoring Jake Owen, a 5-year-old who was killed in 2011 when a driver using a cellphone struck Jake's mother's car with Jake in the backseat. "Jake's Law" will increase penalties for people who cause car accidents resulting in death or serious injury while text messaging or using handheld cell phones.

Signed Marijuana Decriminalization Legislation

Governor O'Malley signed legislation decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Governor O'Malley thinks that decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana reflects the low priority that Maryland courts, prosecutors, police, and the vast majority of citizens already attach to the possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Established the Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

This legislation established the Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board in the Department of Information Technology to oversee Maryland FiRST, the statewide interoperable radio system. The Board will help the State achieve full operation of the radio system by the end of 2016.

